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Joint Study
Group a*

USIB-M-155
16 May 1961

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Minutes of
One-hundred-fifty-fifth Meeting
United States Intelligence Board
USIB Conference Room, Administration Building
Central Intelligence Agency, at 1030, 16 May 1961

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
General Charles P. Cabell
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Thomas L. Hughes, acting for Director of Intelligence and Research,
Department of State
General Graves B. Erskine, Assistant for Special Operations to the
Secretary of Defense
Colonel Burton R. Brown, acting for Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,
Department of the Army
Rear Admiral Vernon L. Lowrance, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations
(Intelligence), Department of the Navy
Brigadier General William G. Lee, Jr., acting for Assistant Chief of Staff,
Intelligence, United States Air Force
Vice Admiral Laurence H. Frost, Director, National Security Agency
Rear Admiral William S. Post, Jr., acting for Director for Intelligence,
Joint Staff
Mr. Harry S. Traynor, Atomic Energy Commission representative
to the USIB
Mr. Alan H. Belmont, Federal Bureau of Investigation representative
to the USIB

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1. Approval of Minutes
9 May Meeting
(USIB-M-154, including Annex
distributed through special
channels)

Approved as circulated, including the Special Annex.

2. Intelligence Activities
in Certain Areas

(See Special Annex to these minutes.)

3. Watch Committee Report
No. 562

Noted this report. In this connection, after discussing Conclusion C in the light of a question raised by Admiral Post, the Board concurred in the view that no changes in the judgments as expressed in that Conclusion were warranted.

4. Review of Sensitive Situations

Korea. The Board discussed information from various sources bearing on the reported military coup in Korea. In the course of the discussion reference was made to questions such as the likelihood of the success of the coup, the political orientation of coup leaders, possible moves by other elements of the Korean army, and the tenor of prior intelligence reporting on, and evaluation of, developments in Korea. The members also exchanged views on the practical difficulties faced by intelligence in answering or dealing with statements or inquiries by the press and other media in coup situations, regardless of the accuracy of intelligence reporting or estimates.

UAR-Israeli. The Chairman raised a question regarding the potential explosiveness of this situation, particularly in the light of the reported concern of Ben-Gurion over UAR military maneuvers.

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Jordan. The members exchanged views on developments in Jordan, including the possibility of internal coup attempts or potential moves by the UAR, especially in view of the forthcoming marriage of the King to a non-Arab. It was agreed that this and the UAR-Israeli situation should be watched closely.

Laos. The Board noted recent developments in Laos and exchanged views concerning the current Geneva conference.

Iran. After discussing the situation in Iran in the light of a comment by the Army representative, the members directed the Board of National Estimates to draft and coordinate a comparatively brief special estimate on Iran, with a view to consideration of the paper at the next USIB meeting.

Ecuador. General Erskine invited attention to developments in Ecuador and the Board exchanged views on the outlook in that country.

5. Possible Damage to U. S.
Intelligence Interests

(See Special Annex to these minutes.)

6. Discussion of Algerian
Situation
(Memorandum to USIB, 12 May;
USIB-M-154, item 4)

The Board discussed in considerable detail a Board of National Estimates memorandum of 9 May and other pertinent factors bearing on the Algerian situation. Following their review, the Board agreed that the memorandum should serve as the basis for a special estimate on the Algerian problem to be drafted and coordinated by the Board of National Estimates for presentation at the next USIB meeting. It was understood that meanwhile a draft of the estimate might be used, as appropriate, to meet any intelligence requirement in connection with the forthcoming Presidential visit to France.

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7. Post-Mortem

Noted the findings, subject to an amendment to paragraph 4, and approved the action recommended in this post-mortem.

8. Report of Cost Estimates
Committee

(Attachment to USIB-D-53. 1/6,
28 April; available through repre-
sentatives on Cost Estimates Committee)

After discussion with Mr. Saunders the Board noted the Committee's report with the understanding that it would be made available for further Board review in the event that any requirement for this report developed in the future.

The Board also agreed to dissolve the Cost Estimates Committee. It was recognized, however, in view of responsibilities assigned to the Coordination Staff with respect to implementation of certain Joint Study Group recommendations in this general field, that that Staff might need assistance at a later date from personnel such as those who had participated in activities of the Cost Estimates Committee.

9. The President's Foreign
Intelligence Advisory Board

The Chairman informed the members of the composition of the new Presidential Advisory Board and noted that Mr. Dulles and he had attended an organization meeting of the Board.

10. Security of Intelligence
Activities

(See Special Annex to these minutes.)

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11. Scheduling of NIE
11-8-61
Soviet Capabilities for Long
Range Attack

The Chairman noted that NIE 11-8-61 had been scheduled for USIB review on 23 May and raised a question about the target date of this estimate in the light of the present status of its coordination and the reported interest of the Secretary of Defense in the timing of the paper. After discussion the Board, including Admiral Post, agreed that the paper should be submitted for USIB consideration one week later than previously scheduled.

12. Executive Session

At 1240 the Chairman requested an executive session, during which Mr. Maury of CIA met with the members.

Adjournment: 1250



JOHN HEIRES
Executive Secretary

SECRETARY'S NOTE

Copies of NIE 11-7-61, "Soviet Short-Term Intentions Regarding Berlin and Germany",